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A WIFE'S HOME DUTIES.

A
WIFE'S HOME DUTIES:

CONTAINING

PRACTICAL HINTS

TO

INEXPERIENCED HOUSEKEEPERS.

LONDON:
BELL & DALDY, 186 FLEET STREET.

1859.

268. c. 338.



LONDON:

Printed by G. BARCLAY, Castle St. Leicester Sq.

DEDICATED

TO

Young Wives,

WITH

AN EARNEST WISH THAT THE HUMBLE OFFERING

MAY BE FOUND

A USEFUL "HELP."

CONTENTS.

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| HOME | 1 |
| FOUR ESSENTIALS TO THE COMFORT OF HOME . | 3 |
| THE FIRST TROUBLE OF DOMESTIC LIFE . . | 5 |
| ARRANGEMENT OF WORK | 8 |
| THE COOK | 11 |
| "THE EYE OF THE MISTRESS" | 12 |
| THE COOK AGAIN | 15 |
| THE HOUSEMAID | 19 |
| "WHOSE PLACE?"—A CONSEQUENCE OF "MANAGE THE WORK BETWEEN YOU" | 26 |
| THE NURSE | 28 |
| MANAGEMENT | 31 |
| HELPS TO MORAL TRAINING | 35 |
| ABUSE OF A USE | 37 |
| ILLUSTRATIONS OF THIS ABUSE | 38 |

| | PAGE |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| GOING TO CHURCH AND FAMILY PRAYER . | 45 |
| HOLIDAYS AND ACQUAINTANCES . . . | 46 |
| WHAT THE REAL POSITION OF A HOUSEHOLD | |
| SERVANT | 47 |
| LABOUR IN VAIN | 49 |
| WASHING | 52 |
| BEWARE OF DAMP BEDS | 53 |
| CHILDREN | 56 |
| THE SICK-ROOM | 61 |
| COMPANY | 64 |
| WANT OF "HELP" | 69 |
| FOOD | 76 |
| GENERAL REMARKS | 80 |
| THE BEST WELCOMES HOME | 83 |

A

WIFE'S HOME DUTIES.

HOME.

THE desire to have a home is one great incentive to the industry of man; it is this which lightens his most laborious tasks, and urges onward in pursuit of the goal; and, when this object is attained,—when the goal is reached,—what is the result?

If the members of a family each strive to do their duty, according to their several positions, it is *happiness*.

If these duties are neglected, it is *wretchedness* and *discomfort*.

B

The mistress is the main-spring of every household ; it is she who has power to regulate and arrange all, it is to her that is entrusted the daily comfort of each person who dwells beneath her roof.

A position of this great power and responsibility ought not to be undertaken till its weighty duties have been seriously considered, and till she who undertakes has resolutely determined to fulfil them.

Is this so? Is there one in ten thousand who pauses to consider what *are* the duties it involves?

No,—she is married—she has a home without any struggle to obtain it. She is suddenly invested with authority and with power over the daily comforts of others, though she is wholly ignorant of the vast responsibilities of the position.

How many are there who, stepping from the schoolroom, are plunged at once into domestic life, without pilot to direct their

FOUR ESSENTIALS TO THE COMFORT OF HOME. 3

course, and who, unable to manage the helm, are tossed about upon "a sea of troubles."

A wife, a mother, the mistress of a family, impressed with the responsibility of her station, who discharges the duties due to her husband, her children, and her servants, commands the respect of all who come within the sphere of her influence.

FOUR ESSENTIALS TO THE COMFORT OF HOME.

"TRIFLES constitute the sum of human things," and it is by a strict attention to domestic trifles that the whole sum of domestic happiness and household comfort is secured.

The first duty of the mistress of a house is to know how to "keep that house in order." There is not a single thing requiring to be done in it that she should not understand, so

as to be able to give directions *how* and *when* it ought to be done.

The four requisites indispensable in household comfort are:—

CLEANLINESS,

PUNCTUALITY,

ORDER,

METHOD.

Cleanliness should be the presiding deity of every household, diffusing, by her constant presence, light on all things.

Punctuality should be the household clock. When this clock is irregular, *all* goes wrong.

Simple as are the terms order and method, they are not always clearly understood, therefore a servant should be made to comprehend that the meaning of Order is to have a place for everything, and to keep everything in its place; and that Method signifies the proper contrivance of work, and the doing each part of it in proper succession.

THE FIRST TROUBLE OF DOMESTIC LIFE.

THE first trouble of domestic life is the selection and management of servants.

The proper selection requires good judgment, and error often arises from the expectation of a combination of good qualities in a servant which are rarely to be met with in any human being. *Immaculate character is an unreasonable hope.*

Notwithstanding all that has been done, and is still doing, towards the spread of education, the moral training—that training most essential of all—has by no means kept pace with it. If we consider what the generality of servants are—their homes, and the training they are likely to have received *there*—nothing very perfect can reasonably be expected, and they should be judged accordingly.

An average share of the moral qualities, with efficiency in her particular duties, is all that can be hoped for.

In inquiring into a character, though it is requisite to be very particular in asking what the faults of a servant are, so as to be able to guard against, perhaps to correct, them, yet it is unwise to be prevented from taking her because she *has* faults, if those particular faults should be of such a kind as to be of less consequence to you than they may possibly be to others.

For instance, bad temper is, under every circumstance, a serious objection; but there are innumerable places where the particular kind of temper complained of may not be subjected to trials; and, by being forewarned, a mistress has it greatly in her power to prevent provocation, while, at the same time, she may have opportunities of exercising salutary moral discipline. But on no account whatever must a servant have cause to infer that

her temper has any influence over the regulations of the household.

In such a case, her temper might lead her to struggle for ascendancy, and, almost imperceptibly, the mistress would become her servant's slave.

In engaging a servant, each matter in her department ought to be definitely stated and clearly understood. The want of this precaution is often the cause of domestic contention, which is seldom amicably settled, and usually results in change.

On first entering her place, the servant's name should be written in a book, with the amount of wages to be received, and any especial agreement that the mistress may choose to make. At the same time, general directions should be given about her work, and the *method* in which it is required to be done.

Each servant should have her own separate cloths, and all the articles of which she will have charge should be put into her care.

ARRANGEMENT OF WORK.

THE servants being selected, the next thing to be considered is the arrangement of work.

Let the house be imagined to contain ten rooms suitable to the size of the establishment, —and the establishments for which these “hints” are more especially designed are to consist of a cook, housemaid, and nurse. Let it open with a cook and housemaid.

The household work to be done in all houses, however much it may differ in degree, is the same in kind.

The work in the kitchen is subject to great variation, proportionate to the requirements of the master and mistress in the culinary department; when these are great, the cook cannot devote much time to assisting in the house-work; but, when they are moderate, arrangements should be made accordingly.

It is, however, usual to give the cook the charge of the dining-room ; and if there are more than two sitting-rooms, she has sometimes the care of one of these. The other work out of her kitchen is the hall, the hall lamps, the door-step, and any other outside work that there may be.

It is usually the cook's department to wait at breakfast. Meanwhile the housemaid is up stairs. The cook also has to answer the tradesmen's, and other single knocks, till any given time that may suit arrangements.

The parlour shutters should be opened as the servants go down stairs.

Each servant should have a separate box, for her stove-brushes, black-lead, &c., and other materials for cleaning the grates. A strip of carpet should be spread before the fire-place while the grate is being brushed, on which should be put the fender and fire-irons. A hand carpet-brush, with a dust-tin, is the best for daily use. The chairs should be

removed into the middle of the room, while the places where they usually stand are being brushed; when they are put back again, every other part of the room should be thoroughly brushed, and every article of furniture too heavy to be moved should be brushed under.

The chintz furniture of chairs and sofas should have the dust removed with a whisk; a duster must never be used for the purpose, as it only tends to rub in the dust, and to make the covers dirty. A dusting-brush should be used for the ledges of doors, windows, wainscots, and the frames of pictures; all other articles must be carefully dusted with clean dusters, not dusting *round*, but removing everything.

THE COOK.

AFTER the cook has lighted the kitchen-fire, brushed the range, cleaned the hearth, and put on the kettle for breakfast (which she must be careful to rinse and fill with fresh water previously), her next business is to go into the parlour, and make that ready for breakfast. The hearth-rug should be taken up and shaken with the hall mats.

Then the hall is to be swept, and, occasionally, the oil-cloth to be wiped over with a dry cloth; this gives it a brighter and clearer appearance than mere sweeping can do. Once a-week it should be cleaned with soap and water. After this the kitchen-stairs are to be swept, and the hall mats put in their places. That everything may be ready when the family comes down, the breakfast things should next be laid, and chairs placed to the table.

The cook will then return to her kitchen,

which she must well brush and dust, she should next place everything in order, and be in readiness to answer the summons for breakfast. For houses which have but one front entrance, it is better not to clean the door-step till after the tradesmen have been for orders. After she and the housemaid have breakfasted, and she has taken away the parlour breakfast things, washed them up, made a durable kitchen fire, and refilled the kettle, then, when all things are tidy, is the time for her mistress to go into the kitchen and give orders for dinner.

“THE EYE OF THE MISTRESS.”

BUT it is not enough for a mistress merely to go into the kitchen, take a cursory glance into the pantry, and order dinner. She has investigations to make, and important household duties to perform there.

The pantry should undergo strict scrutiny. Everything that was taken from table on the preceding day should have been removed on to clean dishes ; any gravy that may have been left poured off into basins, and the milk put into a clean vessel. The pantry window should be found open, and all the shelves scrupulously spotless.

The wholesomeness of food is very materially affected by the place in which it is kept being clean and airy. A mistress should *see* that such matters are attended to ; she should *see* that EVERYTHING after use has been put away in proper order ; that the knives have not been left dirty ; that the glasses have not been put into the cupboard unwashed, &c. The foundations of household cleanliness are—the dish-cloth, the vessels in which the dishes are washed, house-cloths of every description, the pail, and the scrubbing-brush. If *these* are clean, nothing that emanates from them can be otherwise ; but, to keep them so, requires

the "eye of the mistress" almost daily, and, when that eye is closed for too long a time, in nineteen cases out of twenty, the foundations will be found to have become polluted, and the consequences of such pollution are inevitable.

However cleanly a servant's habits may have been, when her mistress is not "particular," *she* will soon cease to be particular too.

Sometimes it is more difficult to get things done in a proper manner when the family is small than when it is large. "It does not seem," as the cook thinks, "worth while" to prepare her apparatus "for washing up these bits of things." So she washes them up after a "fashion," and in that fashion they are not washed clean. And so it is with the glasses, and with many other things.

After the orders for dinner have been given, there comes the putting out of stores, when everything should be thought of that may be wanted during the day.

THE COOK AGAIN.

BETWEEN the time of receiving her orders for dinner, and preparing to execute them, is the time for kitchen or other candlesticks to be cleaned, and the hall lamps, &c., and for doing a portion of those daily *et cæteras* that have to be enumerated.

After the dinner has been served, the first thing to be done is to clear away all that has been used in its preparation—to take the saucepans into the back-kitchen, and such things as may require to be washed up.

Then the fire-place is to be put in order, the kitchen swept and arranged; and if the family are still at dinner, the dry work can be progressing. If it is not a late dinner, the servants may have to dine at this time, otherwise they may probably have their dinner at an early hour.

There should be two appropriate-sized vessels for washing up the plates and dishes—one for hot water, the other for cold, in which they are to be rinsed. These vessels should be put away free from grease and scrupulously clean. The sink should be well washed down and stoned, and the dish-cloth, after thorough washing, hung on a nail to dry. Such matters cannot be neglected without involving a great deal more trouble the next day, or the inevitable consequence will be dirtily-washed plates, &c.

When everything has been made clean and put in its place, the kettle should be filled in readiness for tea. After this the cook may dress herself; and we will hope that the satisfaction of having conscientiously discharged her duty will secure her pleasant thoughts as she sits at her own needlework.

A great many things requiring to be done in a household—the very things essential to preserve its cleanliness—are those which do

not come in the regular course of daily work, but for doing which regular days should be fixed.

If these are allowed to *stand still*, or are done only at irregular times, no house can be clean.

In the kitchen are the brasses and tins to be cleaned, the kitchen-grate and fire-irons to have a weekly extra polish; there is the kitchen china cupboard, from which everything is to be taken out, and the shelves to be well scrubbed. There are the windows to be cleaned, the clock and the chairs to be rubbed, and there may be other weekly *et cæteras* not enumerated.

It is such matters as these that many servants, who have not a natural love of cleanliness (how rare that is!), are apt to neglect. They would rather sit down week after week, leaving them undone, than take the trouble to do them. And it is just such matters as these that a mistress should see *are* done, and

for doing which fixed days should be appointed.

Twice a-week is often enough for scrubbing the kitchen floors and the dresser; when they require doing more frequently, it is generally the cook's own fault; but tables, whether they require it or not, should be scrubbed every day.

The dining-room, too, however thoroughly it may be done every morning, requires an additional cleaning every week; for the furniture has to be rubbed, the windows have to be cleaned, the carpet has to be swept with a long carpet-broom, and the grate, &c. has to receive an additional coat of black lead.

There are six days in the week for the distribution of these extras, and they should be so portioned out as may best suit convenience; but whatever days are fixed should be punctually observed.

THE HOUSEMAID.

LET the housemaid be supposed to have the care of a drawing-room, and a breakfast-room or study. They may both be finished before breakfast: and when there are no fires, she will also have time to prepare the lamp, or to do sundry other little matters that may come within her department.

When the family are at breakfast, she should go up-stairs with a tray, throw open the windows and the beds, and take down the candlesticks, and the jugs that have been used for hot water. She should then return with the slop-can, and two cloths for different purposes. She should be careful to wash the soap-cups, and toothbrush-trays, and to clean the wash-stands.

When the slops have been removed, she should *immediately* take down the can, well

rinse it with warm water, and wash the cloth that has been used. She should then take up the water and fill the ewers and bottles.

This part of her work may be done before she goes to breakfast; or, should it suit arrangements, she might breakfast first.

When the beds have been made, the floors should be lightly swept with a hand-brush, and everything should be very carefully dusted. Once a-week the carpets should be taken up and thoroughly swept. At the same time, the feather-bed should be removed, and the mattress and palliasse, or sacking, should be well whisked. The stairs should be swept every day.

Whatever may be the time fixed for scrubbing the bed-rooms, that time should be punctually adhered to. They do not require to be done so frequently in winter as in summer; but in the summer, when arrangements admit of it, each room ought to be scrubbed once a fortnight.

There are few servants who, even if they know how, *do* prepare a room properly before it is scrubbed. After all the small articles that are about have been carefully put out of the way, the carpets should be taken up. Then the grate should be brushed, the walls swept with an appropriate brush; and before the floor is swept, the bed-furniture and window-curtains should be shaken, whisked, and turned up neatly. Then, and *before* the scrubbing begins, everything should be thoroughly dusted. A partial dusting may be required afterwards; but if it is not dusted *first*, the window being open, the dust that has been accumulating on the various articles of furniture will be blown about. For a moderate-sized room three pails of water will be sufficient. A dust-cover should be thrown over the bed.

A housemaid has the charge of the silver, and when she has finished her daily work upstairs, she should clean and put away that

which has been used at breakfast; or, if her mistress does not like it to remain in the kitchen, it can be cleaned and put in its place before she returns into the bed-rooms. She has also the charge of the glasses and trays, and of all things requisite for what is called "laying the cloth." When she has finished her usual morning's work, there may be sundry matters, impossible to enumerate, which her mistress may require her to do. After which she will dress herself and sit down to needlework.

The exception to the regularity of household work should be the taking up of the stair-carpets; and, to prevent general discomfort, they should be taken up only at times when the family are gone out.

The cleaning of paint, too; that cannot be done with any regularity, because it is undesirable to have it cleaned too often. The parlour carpets ought to be taken up twice during the year, when the chimneys should

be swept, and *then*, of course, the paint in the parlours is to be cleaned.

Half an hour before dinner, the housemaid should put aside her needlework, and make her preparations for laying the cloth. She must first take the tray-stand into the dining-room, and set it ready to receive the tray. She must then brush up the hearth, make a comfortable fire, and arrange the room, which she must partially dust.

After having first dusted the dinner-tray, she should put on it the glasses, and everything that will be wanted; among these should be a tray for the dirty knives, and a tray for the dirty silver.

If toast-water should be required, this ought to be made in the morning, as it is much better for standing several hours before it is used.

The two great requisites in a waiter are activity and quietness. Each plate should be removed as soon as done with—the plate put

into the basket, and the knife and silver into their appropriate places. No dish should be removed till all the plates have been taken away. Then, on clearing the table, the basket for the clean silver should first be taken round, and the other things removed on a waiter.

When there is company, or when a housemaid is required to remain in the room during dinner, she should ring the bell for the cook when the dishes are to be changed, and she should ring in time, so that while she is changing the plates, the cook may be bringing what is wanted to the door, and remove from the hall-table the dishes that may have been placed there. On such occasions the cook should assist in clearing the passage and taking down the dinner things.

When these are taken away, the first thing for the housemaid to do is to put the silver into a jug, to pour boiling water into it, and let it remain till she has cleared everything from the tray; *that* she must brush. The silver

should then be removed into another vessel, and washed with hot water; soda should be used; it should be dried with a flannel and soft cloth, and rubbed with a leather.

Once a-week the silver should be cleaned with whiting, or any other material that may be judged best.

The knives may be put into the jug where the silver has been, but the water must reach only to the handle: then they should be carefully wiped, ready for being cleaned. The glasses should next be washed, and all things put in their places.

It is usually the housemaid's business to set the tea-things; but this depends on previous regulation.

The beds should be turned down before dark.

Should any experienced housekeeper chance to glance over these details, she may be disposed to smile at their minuteness, and deem such minuteness superfluous. Having had

no difficulty, perhaps, herself in the management of a household, and being fortunate in her servants, she may be unable to conceive the extreme ignorance of numbers who neither know how work should be done, nor have any method in doing what they do know.

An inexperienced mistress, incapable of directing her servants in the right way, is liable to lose proper control over them; and even those servants who really *know* their work, on discovering the incapacity of those they serve, do it only as they choose to do it, not as they know it ought to be done.

WHOSE PLACE?—A CONSEQUENCE OF “MANAGE
THE WORK BETWEEN YOU.”

WHAT a household must that be, where a lady, having two servants, says, “Manage

the work between you ; do it together, and fix it as you like!" Yet such households there are.

What is the consequence? Everything is neglected, and in the routine of daily work there are frictions which, to the lookers-on, are sometimes very laughable ones.

That such an arrangement can work well is impossible. The domestic amity which it is supposed to promote is sure to end in bickerings and strife.

As to the poor master and mistress, they may ring for the servants; "but will they come when they do ring for them?"

On the coldest of winter days, the lady returns home to a fireless grate.

"That was Ann's place, please, ma'am!"

"No, indeed, ma'am," says Ann; "I lighted the fire yesterday!"

Poor lady! so she sits shivering in the cold, while the voices heard from below in loud debate are contesting the point of "whose place?"

THE NURSE.

THE requisites indispensable in a nurse are,—

A healthy constitution,

A cheerful temper,

Activity, and

An average share of common sense.

The want of common sense, and the total incapacity of acting in sudden emergencies, has been known to cause serious, almost fatal consequences, and this under the very simplest contingencies.

Another requirement, and one as indispensable as any of those just enumerated, is cleanliness—cleanliness both in person and in habits.

A want of cleanliness would incapacitate any nurse from fulfilling the duties of her position; it would be detrimental to whatever other qualifications she might possess.

It is desirable that a nurse should wash herself thoroughly every morning, just as she is expected to wash the children. Once a-week the mother should see how the children *are* washed; it will soon be proved how they *have been* washed—their shrinking from the proper splashing will soon tell *that*.

Once a-week, also, the mother should inspect the linen-drawers, to ascertain if the children's clothes and the nursery linen have been rightly mended.

This should be done as a matter of course, and without any implied suspicion that the nurse has neglected her duty; indeed, if she is a right-minded person, she will be glad of such an inspection, and the expectation of it is an incentive to carefulness.

If it be possible, children should not sleep in a nursery where they have been sitting all day, though in some cases this is unavoidable. Nor, when they are old enough to be

left alone, should they sleep in the room with a nurse.

It must never be forgotten that the rooms which children inhabit should be kept as airy as possible. A frequent change of linen is also conducive to health.

The nursery beds should be thrown open, and, when the weather permits, the fresh air should be allowed to blow upon them before they are made up again.

It is the duty of a nurse to have the children ready to go out as early in the morning as possible; and all nursery arrangements that do not immediately interfere with the comfort of the children should be postponed for this. A nurse should never be allowed, from consideration of what *she* may like best to do, to *interfere with what is best to be done for the children.*

One of a nurse's essential duties is the preparation of the baby's food. Care should

be taken that it is made of a proper thickness, and that it is not given **TOO HOT, nor TOO FAST.** Glass bottles are now in such general use, that the spoon system is almost abolished; but it requires very great attention to keep these bottles thoroughly sweet. They should be washed immediately after use, and, when quite clean, immersed in a jar of cold water, and kept there till wanted again. This water should be changed every time. Experience only can tell how requisite such precaution is.

MANAGEMENT.

AFTER the work has been arranged, the next duty of a mistress is to enforce the observance of such arrangement.

Servants are, to a certain degree, like

children, and should be subjected to very much the same discipline ; the essentials in each case being—

Firmness,

Strictness,

Kindness,

administered with due regard to the dispositions, tempers, and characters of each.

Few things render a house more disorderly than a disregard of method.

Independently of the general discomfort occasioned by its neglect, it might be supposed that a servant's own experience of its advantages, the trouble it saves her, and the liability to which it subjects her to have things called for when they are not ready, would so impress her with the advantages of method, that she would never fail to observe it.

But it is not so ; it is with some, as though, not liking to be bound by rules, they think

they are exercising a certain degree of independence by doing their work as they please, and when they please.

This ought not to be permitted; for nothing is so dangerous to the authority of a mistress as relaxing any of the regulations which she believes to be conducive to the comfort of the family.

Punctuality has been called the best household clock, and when it does not go well the waste of time is incalculable. However, this comes so immediately under a mistress's observation, that it must be her fault if the clock is not well regulated.

When a master comes home expecting his dinner, and, being quite ready for it, he finds the cloth not laid, it is a trial of temper; and having no immediate occupation, he has time to get a little cross.

The best way to enforce and to ensure punctuality is for the heads of the family to be punctual themselves: when this is the

case, there will rarely be cause to find fault with the servants.

On the other hand, it is vexatious to a cook to have the dinner, which she has been careful to dress nicely, spoiled, by being kept waiting.

The state has been compared to a stage-coach; a family may in like manner be compared to a private carriage,—the children occupy the inside, the master and mistress drive, and the servants are the horses who draw it along.

If the reins are held properly, and the horses are not vicious ones, they will go along steadily. If held too lightly, the horses will relax in their speed; if they be altogether relinquished, though for a short time they may continue their progress, they will soon begin to play tricks, then to kick and rear, till, finally, the carriage is overturned.

However lightly the reins are held, it is requisite **THEY SHOULD BE FELT.**

HELPS TO MORAL TRAINING.

NOTWITHSTANDING this age of educational progress, the moral training—that training most essential of all—bears no proportion to the intellectual: in many cases, indeed, it is altogether neglected, or seldom brought into practical operation.

The judicious conduct of a mistress may effect much towards the moral training of her servants. By consideration and kindness she may attach them to her, and *that* will give her power. She must not be unreasonable in her requirements, nor tax their position too much by imposing unnecessary trouble.

There *are* ladies who, perchance, reposing on a sofa, in sound health and in full power of limb, will ring the bell for a servant to bring them a book from a side-table!

A mistress must not be too severe about trifles ; nothing encourages a habit of falsehood so much as this,—a habit against which, it is to be feared, all mistresses have, in a greater or less degree, to contend.

Perfect truthfulness is, indeed, very rare; but in many little matters a mistress has it often in her power to prevent the utterance of an untruth.

For instance, should she perceive that any part of the daily work has been neglected, such as omitting to shake the hearth-rug, or to dust the mantelpiece, should she be *sure* of such omissions, by not speaking interrogatively, but by assuming the negative, “You have not done this,” in nine cases out of ten her assertion will not be contradicted.

It is just and right that each servant, when not incompatible with the circumstances of her place, should every evening be allowed a certain portion of time which she may call her own; subject, of course, to the

usual household interruptions, but still her own.

This being allowed, it is inexcusable should she *steal* the time which belongs to her mistress, and do what she ought not to do.

ABUSE OF A USE.

IN this age, when a taste for reading has been so universally cultivated (and often to the disregard of more useful things), the books and papers, which are continually in the way of servants, become a temptation they are too often unable to resist. Against this it is necessary to be guarded, and strict measures should be adopted to prevent it. If carried on to any great extent, the result soon becomes evident in unbrushed carpets, partially dusted rooms, and general

neglect of every part of that work which is the least *tellable*.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THIS ABUSE.

MRS. SMITH, an experienced housekeeper, judging from these gradually increasing symptoms that her housemaid was engaged in some literary pursuit, yet having no proof, determined, without making known her suspicions, to ascertain the fact. Meantime she had daily to find fault for the neglect of work.

One morning when Mary, her housemaid, had been in the upper rooms an unusually long time, without any sound to indicate that she was about her work, Mrs. Smith went upstairs, and there—in the chamber which she had half swept, the dust lying at her feet, and leaning on the handle of the broom—stood Mary, so deeply absorbed in the book

she was reading, that the approach of her mistress was unheard.*

Mrs. Smith softly approached, and, looking over her shoulder, she saw that the book was "Pamela."

"Mary!" she said. Mary started, and turning round, and seeing her mistress, she screamed. The colour rose to her face, and in great confusion she hurriedly attempted to put the book into her pocket.

"Stay, Mary," said Mrs. Smith, speaking without any appearance of displeasure. "Stay; give the book to me."

Mrs. Smith took and examined it: it was the last volume.

"So," she said, "this is the cause of your work being neglected, and for this you have been daily subjecting yourself to my displeasure. Do you consider that all the time it has taken you to read so many volumes is time stolen from me?"

* A fact.

Mary hung down her head, and looked very much ashamed, but she did not speak.

For a short time Mrs. Smith looked at her in silence; then she said quietly, but firmly, "If this should happen again, I shall be obliged to part with you."

"Please, ma'am, I won't do so again. I shouldn't have done so now, but—but——"

"But what?" asked Mrs. Smith.

"But," continued Mary, "I'm agait all day, and have ne'er a bit o' time but at these odd snatches, and when once I'd got hold o' the book, I couldn't for the life o' me help going on and on, by bits and bits, till at last I'm almost come to the end."

"Where did you get this book? for your master has no such book as this in his library."

"Mrs. Oliver's nurse lent it to me."

Mrs. Smith paused a moment; then she said,—

"This should tell you that one fault almost

always leads to another. The book does not belong to her; here is her master's name written in it; she has stolen it—stolen it out of her master's library; and if it should be missed, the consequences of her guilt will not only fall on her—you might suffer for it also."

Mary looked very much frightened.

Now, though Mrs. Smith was a kind mistress, she was somewhat exacting; and it had never been her plan to allow her servants any regular time which they could call their own; she did keep them always "agait."

What Mary had said about "odd snatches of time" made its impression, and Mrs. Smith resolved to act upon it: not that she thought of making any immediate alteration in her plans,—that would never do, and might be liable to misconstruction. But Mary was in many respects a valuable servant, and Mrs. Smith was unwilling to part with her; so she gave her the opportunity of proving that

she never would "do so any more," and then she allowed her a regular time to call her own.

In this time Mrs. Smith often supplied her with books that "combined instruction with amusement;" nor had she cause to regret this indulgence, for never afterwards had she reason to believe that her work had been neglected to "snatch bits o' time for reading."

It is to be feared that Mrs. Oliver's nurse is only one of a multitude who daily endanger the lives of children by doing likewise.

The *use* of being taught to read should instil principle to prevent *abuse*; but the world must be many years older, and the "state of progress" much greater than it is, before such principle is brought into action.

Nurses have so many opportunities of indulging their tastes for reading, unknown to their mistresses, that any restraint but conscientiousness is almost impracticable; and how little power this has to control their

inclination must be apparent to all who frequent the roads.

Jane Lee, a nursemaid, who had been in her place two years, and who undeservedly obtained the confidence of her mistress, had the charge of three young children, the eldest being only five years old. One day, while taking a walk in the meadows through which flows the Trent, she sat down on a flowery mound, under the shelter of a spreading oak. She had often sat there before, watching the children as they gathered daisies and king-cups. This day she had brought with her —, and, taking it out of her pocket, she began to read, and in a short time became so much absorbed in the story that she soon ceased to attend to the playful merriment of the children, as one after another they ran to display their collection of varied treasures. On and on she continued to read; nor did she take note of the silence which had been gradually succeeding the hours of glee. Sud-

denly she was roused to a consciousness of her position by a loud scream. She hurriedly started up and threw down her book. The children were not near her. Then looking towards the river, what was her terror on perceiving two of them standing on the very brink !

But there were only two !

These two screaming fearfully, were extending their arms, as if to recover something that they were losing.

The nurse rushed towards them, and there, floating on the river, and struggling with the stream, was the youngest of the children. All hope of rescue was vain ; there was nothing to be done, and soon the waves closed over that poor child for ever.

Another illustration of the fatal consequences of this fearful habit is to be met with in the history of a nurse who was reading in the Stoke Newington Road. One of the children, who had got considerably in ad-

vance, seeing his aunt walking on the other side, darted suddenly into the road. How fatally was his career intercepted! A horse at full speed threw him down, and in a few minutes he was dead!

GOING TO CHURCH AND FAMILY PRAYER.

SERVANTS should attend a place of worship at least once during the Sunday, and it is desirable that they should go to the same place of worship as the family; this ensures their attendance, and however great the temptation to go elsewhere, they are prevented from yielding to it.

Daily family prayer should be observed in every well-regulated household. If circumstances do not permit the whole of the

family to assemble together for this purpose in the morning, they can at least do so in the evening before retiring to rest.

HOLIDAYS.

THOUGH regular stipulated holidays have many objections, and often cause a family inconvenience, yet when servants have respectable friends, it is reasonable that from time to time they should be allowed to visit them.

If such occasional holidays are *not* allowed, they *will* take opportunities unknown to their mistresses.

This privilege being granted, "acquaintances" should not be admitted to the house, as this, in a great many ways, often involves disagreeable consequences. But if they should have parents, or any near relation, residing within distance, after a servant has been some

WHAT IS THE POSITION OF A SERVANT? 47

time in her place, it is only right that they should be allowed to visit her; but it should be only by permission of the mistress, and by her express invitation; and this ought to be mentioned, and clearly understood, at the time of engagement. If license is allowed in this particular, a mistress will never know that her kitchen is free from visitors.

One great cause of deceit and untruthfulness is, in many instances, attributable to a too rigid code of prohibitions in those matters, where a little indulgence might be granted without danger.

WHAT IS THE REAL POSITION OF A HOUSEHOLD SERVANT?

THE position of servants in the present day is surely such as to put an end to that whining, misdirected sympathy, with which they were formerly wont to be compassionated.

Where is there a more useful, a more valuable, or more respected individual of that great human family of which we are all members, than a household servant who is conscientious in the discharge of her duties?

She is provided with a comfortable home; she is supplied with wholesome food; she has money, not only enough for her clothes, but something to lay by for a time of need. She has no anxious thought for the morrow, and many a prickly thorn that is felt by her master and mistress never reaches her.

Whence is it, then, that the outcry against the degeneracy of servants should be so universal?

"Oh," says grandmamma, putting down her spectacles, after listening to the detail of some of her daughter's domestic aggravations, "servants are not what they were in my days; but it's all the fault of their mistresses; they don't know how to manage them; they don't know how to *keep* the

house they've got over their heads, and that's the reason that in one way or other it's always falling to pieces. Bless me! only to think of servants spending their money in such trumpery, and flaunting about, finer than their own mistresses! and to see how they will skip over their work! But, as I've said, it's all the fault of their mistresses; *they don't half look after them*; they leave them to do their work in any fashion; and you know the old saying, 'When the cat's away the mice will play.'"

LABOUR IN VAIN.

SOME ladies, whose unfortunate lot it may have been to be "troubled with servants," experimentalise by taking those who have

never been out. Before doing this, a mistress should consider whether she is *qualified for such an undertaking*, otherwise she will be doing her whom she professes to teach an injury, by inculcating wrong habits, and she will do herself no benefit.

Unless there be a capability to teach on the one side, and great teachability on the other, such an experiment never can answer. The task is very onerous indeed, when she who is to be taught is advanced beyond the usual teachable age.

A laughable instance of this *unteachability* may be illustrated by the following *fact*:—The family were going to have an evening party, when it was the department of the housemaid—a young woman from the country, in her *twenty-second year*—to announce the names, and to usher the guests into the drawing-room. Being totally inexperienced, what she had to do was clearly and patiently explained to her several times; but that she

might be quite sure not to make a mistake, a lady, one of the family, proposed that there should be a rehearsal,—she to act the part of visitor, and the lady of the house to take her proper position in the drawing-room.

Now this bright genius had been told to say to each person before she ushered her into the drawing-room, “Your name, if you please, Ma’am” (or Sir)? then to open the door and announce the visitor to her mistress and the visitors already assembled.

She was told this was what she *ought* to do; what she *did* do was—to throw open the door, to advance resolutely up to her mistress (who was standing as if to receive her guests), to look steadfastly into her face, and to ask her, in a loud voice, “Your name, if you please, ma’am?”

WASHING.

NOTWITHSTANDING the general discomfort of "washing-day," in some cases it is a "necessary evil." When it is so, such arrangements should be made as to make the evil as little apparent, and as tolerable, as circumstances admit.

In most families, even where the washing is nominally put out, "a few things" are usually washed at home; these generally comprise the muslins, the servants' things, and the kitchen cloths.

Beyond these, it is questionable if in washing at home there is the economy that some housekeepers suppose. When it is requisite to hire hands for the purpose, it becomes very doubtful indeed; and, were it otherwise, it would be worth while to make no

inconsiderable sacrifice to avoid the necessity of employing such hands ; for the whole race of charwomen have acquired the universal reputation of exercising so undesirable an influence over the domestics of an establishment, that few mistresses like them to be subjected to it. The almost certain result is mutiny.

BEWARE OF DAMP BEDS.

DAMP beds and unaired linen are points on which housekeepers cannot be too particular, and which they should consider it their duty not to leave to the care of servants, without their superintendence.

Sheets and household linen should be well aired when they come from the wash, and

then deposited somewhere where they will be kept dry. The habit of keeping them aired under beds slept upon takes away from their freshness, and prevents that wholesome feeling of cleanliness which is so refreshing; but however well they may be aired when put away, they should never be put on a bed without previously being placed for a short time to the fire.

A servant may not *intend* to be negligent in the airing of beds, but her idea of what is really aired is very often different from that of her mistress. And, indeed, many are the mistresses whose notions in this particular are far below the mark.

Numerous instances occur in which the most serious consequences have resulted from this inexcusable neglect.

The one selected is, perhaps, more immediately a case of damp blankets, though there is no question that the bed on which such blankets were put was damp enough.

A lady visiting a friend at Newcastle, after a journey of 250 miles (this was in the stage-coach days), retired wearily to bed. She soon fell into a sound sleep. About midnight she awoke with a damp chill, which being succeeded by a succession of shivering fits, she became very much alarmed; she was sure she was going to be seriously ill. She rang the bell violently.

It was as she was going to return to bed that the cause of these unusual symptoms occurred to her. "The bed was damp—she was sure of it." The heat of her body had drawn out the damp, and the sheets were absolutely wet.

A servant came in answer to the summons, and, on making inquiry, it was ascertained that the blankets had been washed only the day before the lady's arrival; that they had been put into the air to dry, and "After that, ma'am," added the servant, in a flush of triumphant proof that the blankets could not

be damp,—“after that, ma'am, they were a good two hours at the kitchen-fire, and I turned 'em mysen.”

The consequence of this was a severe rheumatic fever, to which the sufferer continued subject to the end of life.

CHILDREN.

THE progress of the times is in nothing more apparent than in the treatment of children. Instead of being cooped up in the nursery, sent for only as an accompaniment to dessert, as in the days of our elders, or as many of *us* (the living generation) can remember to have been treated also, the children of this day are not only considered the most important personages in a household, but, un-

fortunately, in too many instances, injudicious management causes them to think themselves so.

The moral training of children may begin at a very early age; and such training, when strictly enforced at the commencement, soon becomes a matter of habit, and is the foundation of character.

It is not much that a young child can *do*, but there is a very great deal that he may be taught *not* to do, and which, if he is *permitted* to do, renders him, even in childhood, an overbearing little tyrant, and a torment to every body about him.

Children, while confined within their nursery walls, may be taught the constant exercise of forbearance, patience, self-denial, and consideration for others. They may be taught also to be useful; and though the circumstances under which these virtues are exercised may be trifling, habits will be formed which will influence greatly their happiness in after life.

One of the early moral teachings for a child is "not to make a noise while baby is asleep." This simple act of self-denial includes at once the exercise of *all* the virtues that have just been enumerated.

But how is this usually enforced?

By fear, or by bribery.

The child is tempted to quietude by the fear of some threatened punishment, or by the hope of some promised reward.

How pernicious is the tendency of either! and how certain is it to engender a blight in the bud!

To do right from a wrong motive is a libel upon virtue; yet such are the motives which, from their very infancy, are usually inculcated in children.

To extend these remarks would be to enter on a subject foreign to the immediate purpose of this work. It is enough to suggest that much may be done, even in the very early years of children, to render them co-operators

in the general promotion of happiness throughout the household.

Beyond very elementary teaching, it is usually incompatible with other duties for mothers to attempt the education of their children.

Yet there are cases when a mother may wish to superintend the "shooting of the young idea."

It is important that regularity in the time of teaching should be strictly observed, and, if possible, *no interruptions admitted.*

Children, while at their lessons, should give them their undivided and earnest attention; but their attention should not be taxed too long. Experience will find out the right time to stop.

However elementary the lesson may be, if the teacher has needlework in her hand, or if she appears to be engaged on any other subject than the one which should immediately occupy her, the lesson will lose its effect.

The children will relax in their earnestness; *acquire habits of restlessness and inattention* very difficult to correct, and which will impede their progress in more important studies.

Lessons should not be considered as tasks, and by a pleasant way of teaching they may be converted into pleasures.

The custom of setting children what are called "tasks" as a *punishment* is very injurious. It is this which often gives a distaste to lessons at an early age.

But it is not in *book-teaching* that a mother's chief duty lies. Her instructions may be always going on. The wonders of nature are before her—that "Story without an End" which is teaching for ever and for ever.

THE SICK-ROOM.

It is here that woman should be the ministering angel presiding over the darkened stillness.

It is here that, in the hour of danger or of death, stifling every demonstration of emotion, and exerting every energy, she should nerve herself to perform all the duties of her trying position.

When the sufferer is one beloved, the trial is indeed severe; and she who is spending "last hours with parting dear ones," who is hearing "last words half uttered," and seeing "last looks of dying friends," is enduring the heaviest trial that human nature can support.

It is well for her who does not sink under this weight of sorrow, and whose strength and means of usefulness fail not till the end.

Then, when that end is over, how soothing, in distant time, must be the reflection that every possible duty had been steadily performed !

A sick-room must be kept as quiet as possible. It is very annoying to an invalid, when there is much passing round the bed, however noiseless, or much opening and shutting of the door. A proper temperature should be strictly observed, and the room should be well ventilated.

Everything should be neatly arranged. No empty basins or glasses left about.

The medicine-bottles should be kept out of the patient's view, and, when emptied, removed ; they should never be allowed to accumulate on the chimney-piece, telling their tale of vacancy.

In the day-time, when the patient sleeps, to prevent disturbance, a card should be hung on the handle outside the door.

All things likely to be wanted in the night

should be thought of early. It is the going in and out of the room for the night preparations, perhaps just when the patient may be disposed to sleep, that often causes a restless night.

No footfall should be heard in a chamber of sickness.

A plentiful supply of clean linen should be kept ready aired, so that it can be in readiness for use at the most convenient times.

The night-light ought to be very carefully placed, so that, without being an annoyance to the patient, the watcher may be able to see his countenance; otherwise sudden changes might pass unobserved.

It is a trial to nurse in sickness those whose consideration for others seems absorbed in their own sufferings; who think that the tender never can, or never ought to be, weary of tending.

There are cases when an invalid's fretful peevishness may provoke a temporary harden-

ing of the heart. To prevent this, let the fretful peevishness be considered as a part of the disease, and let it be treated accordingly.

COMPANY.

THE paying and receiving of morning visits is (with few exceptions) universally considered a time-tax.

Yet of this tax there can be no repeal, without involving consequences so much heavier than the tax, that all resignedly submit to it.

These consequences are too obvious to require comment.

The housemaid should always be ready to open the door at the time usual for callers.

The practice of saying "Not at home" still very wrongfully continues.

However sophistry may try to satisfy conscience by calling the "not at home" merely a conventional *façon de parler*, generally understood, it is a decided falsehood, and, by the servant who is *told* to tell it, is believed to be so.

Perhaps that very servant may a minute before have been receiving a reprimand for an untruth !

A young wife, located probably in a town in which she is a stranger, may have an influx of callers so numerous, that she may not wish to keep up intercourse with all.

At first she will have little opportunity for making her selections judiciously.

But any errors in judgment she may eventually rectify; and, with common sense on each side, she may do so without giving offence.

All calls must be punctiliously returned. Succeeding invitations may be either accepted or refused.

Refusals, without ample apology, are usually understood as extinguishers to future intercourse.

The "pleasantness" of evening parties depends almost entirely on the arrangements of the lady of the house.

The same people meeting at different houses, and under different circumstances, are often *apparently* not the same.

The comfort of the lady of the house, and the power to manage her "evening," will very materially depend on having her arrangements, whatever those arrangements may be, *completed in time*.

To ensure the "well going off" of her evening, she should not trust too much to her servants, but should previously inspect their preparations, and be minute in her directions.

The most enjoyable way of seeing friends is to have the power to receive them as inmates. Fortunately, in the numerous changes

effected since the days of our grandmothers, one of them is that visitors, in the house either of a friend or an acquaintance, really *are* now at "Liberty Hall."

In bygone times, both visitors and hostess were in shackles.

The poor hostess had to apologize for leaving the general sitting-room, even to give orders for dinner.

As to the poor guests, they sat round the table with their open work-boxes, not daring to abstract their attention from the "present company."

To read, to write, to do anything but stitch, stitch, stitch at their fancy-work, was considered an impropriety and a breach of good manners.

What wearisome work it must have been to pay a visit in those days!

In these times, the greatest compliment that can be paid to visitors is to let them "do as they like."

What a relief to the hostess !

All that she has to think about, is to take care that their beds are well aired, their personal comforts well attended to, to supply them plentifully with literature, and then, "to make society the sweeter welcome, to leave them till dinner-time alone."

But these modern notions may be carried a little too far; when they are so, visitors think themselves uncared for. Nobody likes that; and should the surroundings chance to be rather grand, they are apt to think "the place" is what they have been invited to see, not the inhabitants.

This is not pleasant.

WANT OF "HELP"—AN ILLUSTRATION.

AGATHA BELMONT was an only daughter. Her father had been many years a widower, and at a very early age Agatha was sent to what was called "a first-rate" establishment for young ladies.

It was here that sacrifices were made to the Graces, and where the ornamental, and not the useful, was considered the great object of life.

It was here that the pupils were taught how to enter and how to get out of a carriage, and it was here that they were told to sleep in white kid gloves!

When Agatha was eighteen she became Mrs. Norris, the wife of a man of moderate income.

Mr. Norris was by no means exacting,

yet he *did* expect the woman he married should be able to discriminate between a shoulder and a leg of mutton; he did expect that she should know how to give orders for dinner, how to direct household purchases, and, in some degree, how to manage the servants.

Poor Agatha! about such matters she knew nothing.

How should she? What opportunities had she had of gaining experience? for Agatha, after her so-called education was completed, had remained as parlour boarder: beyond embroidery and fancy work she knew not the use of a needle.

What was the use of teaching *her* how to mend her clothes, or how to darn a stocking? Her father was rich, and would not her lady's maid do all such things?

What "first-rate" establishment for young ladies would condescend to teach such things as these? What did it matter knowing how

such things *should be done*, if never required to do them?

Yet who can tell where the wheel of fortune may eventually cast the most prosperous of her favourites?

After a visit to Paris—where she did not gain much experience in household matters—Mrs. Norris settled in her new home.

The two servants were of that average kind whose improvement or degeneracy so much depends on the management and training of a mistress.

On the first morning, soon after breakfast, the cook entered.

"Please, ma'am, what orders for dinner?"

Mrs. Norris was just then absorbed in a new publication. She put it down, and looked very much puzzled.

"Dinner!" she exclaimed. "Oh, I had forgotten about that. What's in season, cook?"

The cook looked puzzled in her turn.

"Season, ma'am?"

"Yes; what kind of meat, and fish, and all those sort of things, are to be had at this time of year?"

"Why, ma'am, there's lamb—that's just come in, like; and there's salmon, but they do say it's very——"

"Lamb and salmon! yes, that will do. Get some lamb, cook, and some salmon."

"What joint, please, ma'am, am I to get?"

"Joint! What? I said *lamb*, cook."

"Yes, ma'am; but, please, what *part* would you like?"

"Let me see—what parts are there?—oh, there's a leg—yes, get a leg of lamb."

"And the salmon, ma'am?—how many pounds, ma'am?"

"Pounds! eight or ten; I should think that would be enough. Don't you think so, cook?"

"Please, ma'am, is there to be company?"

"No; only your master and myself."

"Then it will be quite enough, ma'am (a curtsy). And vegetables, ma'am? Would you like new potatoes? They're rather scarce just now; but I think ——"

"Yes; get some new potatoes, and something green, too. Get something green; some — some spinage."

"I'm afraid, ma'am, I can't get spinage just at this time; that doesn't come in, like, till next month."

"Never mind, only let there be *something* green."

"Very well, ma'am; and a tart, ma'am? or a pudding? or shall I make both?"

"Oh, to be sure; I'd forgotten about tart and pudding. Yes, we must have a gooseberry tart, and a pudding of some kind; never mind what."

"Is that all, please, ma'am?"

"Yes, I think it is; but stay, cook. Shouldn't there be soup, or something of that

sort? Yes, I know there should—soup and fish, they go together—yes, indeed, cook, there must be soup—white soup—and now that's all."

Mrs. Norris returned to her book, impressed with the success of this first attempt at housekeeping, but thinking what a "tiresome business" it would be to have the trouble of ordering dinner every day.

When the cook returned into the kitchen, her countenance was so speaking that the housemaid eagerly asked,—

"Whatever's the matter, cook?"

"Matter! why, matter enough for you and me to make merry on, and good news to boot. A fine young missus we've got above there, and fine places we're like enough to have of it, if she do but go on as she's begun."

Then, with many comments, she detailed the orders she had just been receiving.

When dinner was served, the surprise of Mrs. Norris, on seeing the fish, was not less than that of her husband.

It did not weigh "ten pounds," but it was the largest salmon the fishmonger had; and as salmon had only just come into season, the price of each pound was half-a-crown.

The other things brought to table were proportionately expensive, as all were the highest prices for things "just come in season."

That dinner was rather an expensive one to set before two people.

In the general management of her household Mrs. Norris had no more experience than she had shown in giving orders for her first dinner. And though, by consulting Mr. Norris, it was possible for her to regulate the expenses of her "table," in other matters she was left without "HELP."

The servants soon relaxed in their duties, and to such a degree did they neglect that part of the work which most requires "the

eye of a mistress," that all the kitchen articles, which had been new and bright, gradually became almost unusable.

The servants had no respect for a mistress who did not know how to direct them, and Mr. Norris had no comfort in his HOME.

FOOD.

CULINARY literature has not failed to keep pace with the general literature of the age, and there are now so many excellent and *practical* cookery-books, that it would be presumptuous to touch on this subject, beyond making a few general remarks.

A very important part of domestic arrangement is attention to the proper preparation and wholesomeness of food. Indeed the health

is so much affected by any material and continued neglect on this point, that attention to it cannot be too strongly enforced.

Few things are more wasteful than the continual recurrence of under-roasted, or of over-boiled, meat, or more unwholesome than under-boiled vegetables.

The water in which meat is put should never actually boil, or the meat will become hard. It should be put into cold water, and heated *gradually* till the water simmers. The scum which rises to the top should be carefully and repeatedly taken off. The water in which meat has been boiled should not be thrown away; it can be used for boiling meat or bones to make soup. The stock for soup should never be made on the day when the soup is wanted, or it will be greasy.

Broth (especially for invalids) should be poured out, and remain till it is cold, so that the fat can be taken off.

Nothing renders gravies more unwholesome than to be made from meat or bones that have been stewed over and over again. When it is possible, there should always be stock gravy in readiness for anything for which it may be wanted. The best gravy is that made from the bones and flesh of fresh meat. All materials for gravy require to be stewed a great many hours, and should be strained before being poured out, to clear off any particles of bone, &c. When sufficiently stewed, it will be a jelly.

The *wholesomeness* of gravies is a matter of consequence.

Boiled paste puddings — especially beef-steak and suet — require a great deal of boiling; three or four hours is not too much. All meat requires keeping before it is cooked, and legs of mutton should hang at least a week when the weather permits. Steaks and chops should be turned every day, and the dishes on which they are kept changed.

Roast meats, most especially poultry, require a great deal of basting; when this is neglected meat tastes very differently. Poultry should be basted with butter.

Fish for boiling should be put into hot water; fish for frying should be made *thoroughly dry*.

Dripping, when carefully prepared, can be used for many purposes. From roast-beef dripping, very good paste can be made. Cold meat is sometimes an encumbrance to small families. There are many ways in which it can be converted into savoury dishes. One way of using up cold meat is to chop it very fine, to add parsley, season it well with salt, cayenne, perhaps a little mace, and make it into small balls, with the beaten-up whites of eggs. This, nicely made, nicely fried, and served up with gravy, is a dish *tout-à-fait française*.

The mistress should see that the dinner be neatly served, and that the dishes and plates be hot.

GENERAL REMARKS.

ORDERS for tradespeople should be written the first thing after breakfast, and a separate book should be appropriated to each.

It is desirable that all tradesmen's bills should be paid weekly; by doing this mistakes are prevented, or any that may have been made are more easily rectified. The time for payment should never exceed a month.

The stock of groceries ordered in at the same time must, in some measure, depend on the economy there may be in ordering in large quantities; but the general supply should not be less than for a month's consumption.

Experienced housekeepers make a point of ordering articles prospectively, and of never letting any one article run on to exhaustion.

The trouble and inconvenience saved by attention to this is great.

All household matters should be attended to and despatched as soon after breakfast as possible.

The boiler should always be filled up whenever any great quantity of hot water has been taken out.

The usual weekly allowance to each servant of tea, sugar, and butter, is half-a-pound of butter and sugar, and two ounces of tea. "Beer-money" should never be given. If a servant takes beer, a proper quantity should be allowed.

Servants should be spared from temptation.

To save them from sin, more than to save the stores, the store-room door, the side-board, and tea-caddy, &c., should be locked.

The plea of "much to do" should never be admitted as excuse for little done, and for that little being done badly.

Unless in an exceptional case, servants

should never be reproved in the presence of, or within hearing of, their master, and this not wholly on *his* account; for often, without knowing, or being able to understand, the extent of provocation, he hears *only* the reproof.

The cleaning of shoes and knives—those household stumbling-blocks—are sometimes both given to the cook; sometimes the housemaid cleans the knives: in either case, the time for doing them should be fixed; but when the knives are to be cleaned by the housemaid they should be done in the morning, before she is dressed.

Many young people, when first they commence housekeeping, though they may take a good house, and have all their surroundings in genteel style, think it prudent to start with only one servant. And there are others who, without any consideration to prudential motives, think their comfort best promoted by such an arrangement.

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blackening fire, a hearth covered with accumulated cinders, and a room overspread with fragmental pieces of needlework.

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